The People's Korea

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Int'l Juche Seminar Held in New Delhi

Over 80 Dels. from 65 Countries Meet

An International Seminar on the Juche Idea was held from April 14 to 16 in New Delhi, India, with a large attendance on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il Sung amid the great interest and expectation of the progressive people and broad public circles of the world who are studying the immortal Juche idea, according to a KCNA report.

The seminar was attended by an Indian delegation consisting of over 50 members including vice-presidents of universities and 28 members of parliament and over 80 delegations and delegates from 65 countries and four international organisations.

Also present were the delegation of the DPRK headed by Hwang Jang Yop, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and President of Kim Il Sung University, and the delegation of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification.

It was also attended by more than 1,200 observers including scientists, men of culture, politicians, public figures, pressmen, students and others in New Delhi and local areas of India.

At ten a.m. in the opening session, His Excellency Jagjivan Ram, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of India, and ministers of the Indian government, directors of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, members of the preparatory committee of the international seminar on the Juche idea and members of the presidium appeared on the platform amid the warm applause of the attendants.

At the seminar Yoshimoto Masaki, researcher of the International Institute of the Juche Idea and professor at Hosei University, Japan, read a congratulatory message of Yasui Kaoru, respresentative director of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, to the seminar.

Then His Excellency Jagjivan Ram, Deputy Prime Minister, made an opening address.

Hwang Jang Yop, head of the delegation of the DPRK read out a message of greetings jointly sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee of the DPRK and the Administration Council of the DPRK to the seminar and made a congratulatory speech amid an enthusiastic applause of the attendants.

Also read out were a congratulatory message of Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, and messages of greetings from heads of state, organisations for the study of the Juche idea, academic and press circles and noted individual personages of many countries of the world to the International Seminar on the Juche Idea.

Yaya Bagayoko, Minister of Information and Communications of the Republic of Mali and director of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, made a keynote report titled "The Juche Idea Is an Immortal Banner Leading the Cause of Independence to Victory" at the seminar on April 14.

Ogami Kenichi, deputy-director of the secretariat of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, made a report of the IIJI secretariat at the seminar.

That day speeches were made by many delegates.

On April 15 a congratulatory group of more than 200 pupils and children carrying a portrait of President Kim Il Sung entered the seminar hall, playing the welcome music.

That day speeches were continued.

On April 16 head of the party and government delegation of the Republic of Sierra Leone S. Ibrahim Conteh, Member of the Political Bureau and Director of the Financial and International Department of the Central Committee of the All People's Congress of Sierra Leone, mounted the rostrum and, on behalf of the President, All People's Congress, government and people of Sierra Leone, courteously conveyed a gift to President Kim Il Sung to the head of the delegation of the DPRK.

That day speeches were also made by S. Ibrahim Conteh, Member of the Political Bureau and Director of the Financial and International Department of the Central Committee of the All People's Congress of Sierra Leone; Hong Ji Yong, head of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification; Bhugaloo Heeralall, director of the Port Luis high school, Mauritius; Anibal Munoz, professor of law of Ouito University, Ecuador; M.B. Jones, Chairman of the Journalists' Union of Gambia; Jose Rafael Nunez Tenorio, dean of the philosophical faculty of Caracas University, Venezuela; Kazi Zafar Ahmed, President of the People's United Party of Bangladesh; George Pattas, member of the International Relations Committee of the Central Committee of the Panhelenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) and President of the Lawyers' Union; Monica Bassilion, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus, director of the socialist women's movement department of the party and Chairman of the Socialist Women's Union; Lasse Jahnsen, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Left Party of Norway; Sylvester William Saibi, deputy editor-in-chief of the Zambian paper "Times of Zambia"; and so on.

All the speakers were unanimous in stressing that the Juche idea is an immortal creative doctrine which has brought about a radical turn in the development of human thought and the most correct guiding idea, guiding theory and method of guidance leading the people's cause of independence to victory.

Many delegates introduced precious successes and useful experiences gained in studying and disseminating the Juche idea.

The seminar unanimously adopted a letter to President Kim Il Sung and a letter of thanks to Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India, amid an enthusiastic applause of the attendants.

The seminar also adopted amid a loud applause a resolution reflecting the unanimous desire and resolve of the entire attendants to more deeply study the Juche idea and widely disseminate and embody it in the revolution and construction.

The seminar closed with a chorus of "Song of General Kim Il Sung."

All the attendants of the seminar rose to their feet and loudly shouted for a long while "Long Live the Great Leader President Kim Il Sung" and "Long Live the Immortal Juche Idea."

Hwang Jang Yop, head of the DPRK delegation, arranged a banquet in New Delhi on April 16 in connection with the successful close of the International Seminar on the Juche Idea.

The banquet was addressed by head of the delegation Hwang Jang Yop and Murli Manohar Joshi, chairman of the preparatory committee of the seminar.

The attendants heartily wished good health and a long life to President Kim Il Sung.

The first International Seminar on the Juche Idea was held in Madagascar, September 1976. Following this the International Seminar on the Juche Idea was held in Pyongyang, September and it decided the establishment of the international organization for the study of the Juche Idea in 1977 and the organizing committee was inaugurated. In April, 1978 the International Institute of the Juche Idea was established in Tokyo.

Indian President Meets DPRK Del.

Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India, met the DPRK delegation headed by Hwang Jang Yop attending the International Seminar on the Juche Idea on Apr. 15 at the Presidential Palace, according to a report.

The head of the delegation courteously conveyed the warm regards of President Kim Il Sung to the president.

The Indian president expressed deep thanks for the warm regards of President Kim Il Sung and hoped for further development of excellent friendly relations between India and Korea.

Saying that he was very happy to meet the delegation of Korea on the auspicious birthday of the great leader President Kim Il Sung, he asked the head of the delegation to convey his greetings and good wishes for the good health and long life of the great leader.

President Kim Il Sung is a very courageous fighter and a leader full of confidence, he said. He referred to the greatness of the Juche idea founded by the President and repeatedly hoped that the International Seminar on the Juche Idea would be successful.

S. Korean Cameraman Residing Here Arrested by Pak Junta

South Korean puppet authorities cooked up a new "spyring" case. It was disclosed on Apr. 20 by papers published here.

According to Japanese papers, 11 south Koreans including a university labor affairs expert and a south Korean cameraman residing in Japan were arrested.

Seven of them were indicted on charges of violation of the "anti-communist law."

The puppet police authorities said, they, active since the mid 1960, was headed by Lim Dong Kyu, 40, secretary general of Koryo University's labor affairs research center in Seoul, and Chi Jong Kwan, 39, a south Korean photographer residing in Japan for the French Gamma Press and the British Camera Press.

They are alleged to have tried to carry out Pyongyang's mission of the organizing the underground DPRK political network in south Korea.

Chi Jong Kwan is alleged to have been involved in the so-called "spyring" case in 1966 when he was transferred from Seoul to Tokyo by the French and British photo sales agencies.

Chi Jong Kwan was charged with having received about $6,000 in operation funds and with spying on a joint US-south Korean military exercise and the south Korean armed forces day parade in Seoul in 1978.

He is a correspondent member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (President Bruce Dunning, Tokyo bureau chief of the U.S. television network CBS News).

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, earlier on Apr. 13, sent a cable to the south Korean puppet minister of information and culture asking for an inquiry into Chi's whereabouts.

According to the cable, Chi was taken into custody on Mar. 31, this year, at Pusan International Airport and since then his whereabouts has been unknown.

That day, he arrived at Pusan airport along with Ms daily Marie Soderberg, correspondent of Swedish Svenska Dagbladet, with a plan to go to Cheju Island to prepare a feature story on the women divers of Cheju Island, the telegram said.

The telegram quoted Ms Soderberg as saying that after immigration procedures had been completed, three unidentified men came to detain Chi and Ms Soderberg for about 90 minutes, after which Ms Soderberg was allowed to leave but Chi continued to be detained.

On Apr. 16, the Foreign Correspondents' Club sent letters to news agencies here, disclosing that Chi had been arrested and had been missing for more than two weeks.

Follows the fulltext of the letters.

Chi Jung Kwan, a regular member of the FCCJ, has been in custody of south Korean authorities for more than two weeks, and no official explanation of his whereabouts was given. When club officers learned of this on April 13, we sent the attached cable to Seoul, asking for a response by April 16th.

The Korean embassy informed us on Monday, April 16th, that a response to our inquiry has been drafted but would not be turned over to us unless both men agreed not to divulge the contents of the response until an official announcement about Mr. Chi's case was made in Seoul. Such an announcement is said to be forthcoming "within a few days."

We felt that, because we were acting on behalf of the FCCJ, we could not agree to the prior conditions required and so declined to accept the Korean government response.

It is understood that Mr. Chi has been arrested and is now in custody in Seoul facing espionage charges and the specific charges will shortly be announced by the government. We have been unable to learn any further details about our fellow member's arrest.

The Pak Jung Hi junta harshly suppresses the press and cracks down even on foreign correspondents and publications which disclose the reality of south Korea and are critical of the south Korean authorities.

In January, this year, the Pak junta expelled the Seoul correspondent of the Japanese daily "Mainichi Shinbun," saying that he "made a distorted report about the political situation" in south Korea. Similar steps were also taken in May, 1977, against the "Yomiuri Shimbun," another major daily of Japan. At that time, the Seoul bureau of "Yomiuri Shinbun" was ordere closed and the distribution of the paper was banned. The Seoul correspondents of this paper were ordered to leave south Korea, because the executive managing editor of the paper praised the DPRK during his stay there.

In February, 1978, ex-Washington Post correspondent John Saar was refused entry into south Korea as a "persona non grata" because of his "consistently prejudiced and biased" reporting on south Korea in the past.

In December last year, the Japanese broadcasting station NHK TV had its film seized by the puppet authorities. It featured the former south Korean "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung speaking at a prayer meeting.

S. Korean Economy on Downgrade

The south Korean economy is rapidly going on the downgrade, shaken to its foundations by a runaway inflation, expanding trade deficit and the increasing number of bankruptcies.

Seoul is desperately busy saving the economy from an imminent catastrophe. **(See related stories on page 3)**

South Korea's "economic planning board" announced on Apr. 17 "new economic policy to contain inflation and stabilize the economy."

The basic line of this new measures is: 1) to emphasize on "long-term stabilization" and the "protection of daily life of the people"; 2) to scale down investment funds to heavy industries and chemicals and to diverse investment funds toward lighter industries producing necessities for the domestic market; 3) to maintain tight financial policy; and 4) to assist less-fortunate people suffering from chronic inflational trend.

The "new measure" include postponement of investment in some capital-intensive projects in heavy industries and chemicals. They also included an easing of the "government's stress on export."

The "new measures" include large price rise in some 58 areas. The price boosts are reportedly expected to add 2.9% to consumer prices and 3.1% to wholesale prices. Consequently, prices are expected to record increases of 10% to 12% in the first half of 1979. Previously, south Korean authorities had planned to hold inflation to 10% to 12% in the first half of 1979.

According to a report prepared by the "economic planning board" on Apr. 13, the attainment of this year's "export target" of south Korea envisaging $15.5 bil. are is unlikely.

During the first quater, the south Korea's export amounted to $3,095 million, 14.7% increase over the like period of last year. On the contrary, the import amounted to $4,310 million, 45.7% rise over the like period of last year. As a result, the trade deficits stood at $1,046 million.

On the other hand, consumer prices rose 6.2% and wholesale prices 4.6% during the same period compared with those of the end of last year. It means these prices will be doubled as against the yearly target which the south Korean authorities set (consumer prices 12%, wholesale prices 10%).

Prior to the announcement of Apr. 17 "new economic policy", the south Korean authorities rose prices of 62 items including public utilities charges from 10-42.8%. This was 4th price hike this year.

The south Korean vernacular daily "Tong-a Ilbo" on Apr. 18 hit this "new policy", saying that: comprehensive policy for economic stabilization defys public expectation. It is doubtful that south Korean economy, facing ominous signs such as high prices of commodities and expansion of trade deficit, will be recovered by such mesaure,.

In February a newly emerging south Korean business group "Ryulsan" went bankrupt, indebted to the amount of 120 billion won (484 won equal one U.S. dollar). The "Ryulsan" case is more serious in its scale larger ever.

The backgorund of the adoption of "new measures" lies in the aggravation of chronic inflation, unbalance of supply and demand, decline of the international competitiveness and increasing strain of "high economic growth."

This means the failure of the export-oriented high growth "policy" which the south Korean authorities have propaganded for long time.

The south Korea's serious economic crisis is caused by the Pak Jung Hi's economic "policy" depending on Japan and U.S.

$670M. Trade Deficit with Japan

The trade imbalance between south Korea and Japan began to rise last month in south Korea's disfavor, Apr. 19 English paper "Mainichi Daily News" published here reported.

South Korea's exports to Japan last month came to $298,026,000 at the f.o.b. prices against imports of $533,534,000 at the c.i.f. (cost insurance and freight) prices, both on a customs clearance basis, leaving $235,508,000 in south Korea's deficit.

At the same time, south Korea suffered a deficit of $670,599,000 in trade with Japan during the first three months of this year as exports amounted to $794,461,000 against imports of $1,465,060,000.

The three-month deficit reflected an increase of $17,656,000 over the $652,943,000 reported during the like period a year earlier.

35th World Table Tennis Championships Open in Pyongyang

The 35th World Table Tennis Championships opened in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, on Apr. 25 and will continue untill May 6, amid the fervent expectation and keen interest of the world people and table tennis fans.

Now the world's attention is focussed on Pyongyang, the political, economic and cultural centre of Chollima Korea.

The championships were participated by over 900 paddlers from 75 countries and regions of the five continents, which include all the strong rivals known to the world.

The World Table Tennis Championships have been held 34 times since 1927.

It had been held once a year from 1927 to 1939 (until the 13th World Table Tennis Championships) but on account of World War II it was discontinued untill 1946. From 1947 (the 14th WTTC), the championships were again held once a year till 1957, but since then it has been held every two years.

In April, 1977 when the 34th WTTC was held in Birmingham, England, the ITTF General Meeting chose Pyongyang as the host city for the 35th festivals.

The championships are now scheduled to have 7 events—men's and women's team events, men's and women's individual events, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles.

The championships unprecedented in scale will contribute not only to further developing the world table tennis movement and enhancing its technical level but also to strengthening friendships and ties among the world people and sportsmen.

The organizing committee of the championships has long energetically carried on the preparatory work with the deep interest of the government and people of the DPRK and with their active support, and the help of H. Roy Evans, President of the International Table Tennis Federation, and its officials.

The Pyongyang Gymnasium, venue of the world table tennis festivals, built by the Korean workers, has over 20,000 seats including reserved seats, with a field of 5,000 square metres and a height of 27 metres, indoor temperature of 21-23C or higher, and with illumination for games and photography fully guaranteed. It has 11 training rooms for table tennis and other various sports, showers, some hundred rooms, big and small, and 36 exits. Five to six minutes are enough for all the spectators to enter the stadium.

Roy Evans, president of the ITTF, said in this connection:

"The stadium is first-class and will provide a truly splendid stage for the highest manifestations of our game. All supporting services are more than adequately provided for.

The championships will doubtlessly give the opportunity to increase cooperation and brotherhood among all players, officials and those interested in this sport, in conformity with the ITTF rules, and make a new epoch-making turn in developing the sport skill."

For the 35th WTTC, table tennis players, delegates, tourists and correspondents are arriving in Pyongyang in large numbers from various countries and regions.

The DPRK on Feb. 20 once and again proposed to south Korea to form a unified team of north and south participate in this championships.

However, the south Korean side, totally ignoring the ardent desire of the whole nation for national reconciliation, unity and peaceful reunification and a unified team, formally announced at the fourth round talks that it would participate in the 35th WTTC as a separate team, without forming a unified team.

President Roy Evans of the ITTF on Apr. 21 said in his statement that: the table tennis association of the DPRK is still making its effort to reach an agreement in participating with north-south unified team.

Schedule Of Events

APR. 24TH—ITTF Council —Meeting
25TH—Opening Ceremony
—Player Qualifications Committee Meeting
26TH—Team Events
27TH—Team Events
28TH—Team Events
—ITTF Biennial General Meeting (first day sitting)
29TH—Team Events
30TH—Semi-finals and Finals
—Awarding Ceremony (team events)
May 1ST —Rest and Pleasure Enjoyment
2ND—Individual Events
3RD—Individual Events
4TH—Individual Events
—ITTF Biennial General Meeting (second day sitting)
5TH—Individual Events
6TH—Finals
—Awarding Ceremony (individual events)
7TH—Sightseeing
8TH—Return-home

KTTA Renews Overtures for Unified Team

PYONGYANG, Apr. 18 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Korean Table Tennis Association on Apr. 18 published a statement proposing to the south Korean table tennis association to hold the fifth round of the talks between the delegates of the table tennis associations of the two sides at any time even the day before the opening of the 35th World Table Tennis Championships to form a unified national team of the north and the south.

Follows the full text of the statement:

For all sincere efforts of our side, the talks between the delegates of the table tennis associations of the two sides for forming a unified national team of the north and south to participate in the 35th World Table Tennis Championships to open in Pyongyang remains deadlocked due to the insincere attitude of the south Korean side.

The south Korean side unilaterally walked out of the conference room at the fourth round of the talks between the delegates of the table tennis associations of the two sides which had been arranged with great efforts, did not turn up at the talks without giving a definite answer to the proposal of our side to hold the fifth round of the talks on Mar. 27, nor did it make clear its attitude toward the proposal of our side to have individual contact on Apr. 3, if it could not hold the formal talks.

We, however, have made sustained efforts to resume the talks, hoping that the south Korean side would change its wrong attitude and return to the talks. But it has so far shown no response.

If the south Korean side returns to the talks even now, there will be no difficulties in forming a unified team. If the two sides reach an agreement even just before the opening of the championships, we will be able to send a unified team to the Pyongyang championships to fully live up to the expectation of the nation.

Proceeding from this stand, we solemnly propose once again to the south Korean table tennis association to hold the fifth round of the talks between the delegates of the table tennis associations of the two sides at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at any time even the day before the opening of the championships.

KOREA FOCUS

Pyongyang Ping-pong Championships

The Organizing Committee of the 35th World Table Tennis Chamionships announced on Apr. 19 that all the preparations for the championships to open on Apr. 25 had been completed with success. The Organizing Committee revealed that more than 80 teams would participate from some 70 countries and areas of five continents, including all the veteran paddlers. President Evans of the International Table Tennis Federation admitted the absence of an Israeli team from the championships on the grounds of a possibe security difficulty. A south Korean team failed to get visas to enter Pyongyang. All indications are that the championships will become highly successful, despite the absence of some teams.

All sports, including table tennis, are fair contests of skill. For a full display of true sportsmanship, contests should be fought by those competent and qualified, without any risk of hampering them. In the absence of such prudence, any given contests might be spoilt, badly discrediting sportsmanship. To take the example of Olympics and other international games, the presence of Israelis caused a bloodshed in the Olympics held in West Germany, leaving a most shameful blot on the history of sports.

The south Koreans foully dealt with the matter of participating in the Pyongyang championships.

The DPRK Table Tannis Association, host to the championships, proposed a unified national team to the south Korean counterpart in response to the resumption of north-south dialogue in January. A total of four rounds of table tennis talks were held, including the Feb. 27 first meeting of north and south Korean representatives.

Today reunifying the country is perceived by the whole Korean nation as its supreme concern, the reason for an overwhelming pan-national welcome for the start of north-south ping-pong talks. That enthusiastic welcome was shared by the ITTF, the Japanese and numerous other table tennis associations, which all expressed their willingness to cooperate in the formation of a joint Korean team.

Notwithstanding this, the south Koreans assumed a lukewarm attitude from the beginning. At no time in all the four meetings, did the south Koreans use the works "unified national team" and express consent to forming the joint team. Although the meetings were intended only to form a unified team, the south Koreans abused them as an opportunity to secure their separate participation, an obvious opposition to the joint team.

The south Koreans walked out of the fourth meeting, calling further talks "unnecessary," but proposing north-south friendship matches. The Pak junta always insists on tackling with the easiest aspects of the reunification undertaking. Sports are apparently the easiest step in the approach to the reunification question. Yet, the formation of a unified national team was frustrated by the south Koreans, a betrayal to the whole Korean nation and the world public.

It was once again shown how isolated the Pak junta is in the international community of nations. The south Korean table tennis association at first tried to use the prestige of the ITTF in rationalizing its objection to a unified team. They approached the Japanese and other national table tennis associations. The results, however, were contrary to their expectations. The ITTF and the Japanese ping-pong association urged the south Koreans to agree with the proposal to form a joint team. Then, the American association became the last ally of the south Koreans. The Americans declared their boycott against the championships in case of the absence of a south Korean team and an Israeli team. After all, however, the Americans flew into Pyongyang.

The most despicable thing about the south Koreans is that they openly attempted to scuttle the Pyongyang championships. Japan's Kyodo News Service reported from Seoul on Mar. 12 on the motive behind the south Koreans in unilaterally breaking off the ping-pong talks and proposing separate north-south friendship meetings:

"The south Koreans are motivated by the desire to prevent the north-south relations from politically being used with regard to world public opinion as the forthcoming Pyongyang table tennis championships is the first large-sclae international event ever held in north Korea and considering the approach of the birthday of President Kim Il Sung."

As it turned out, the south Koreans spread groundless charges that the Pyongyang championships should be disqualified as an international meeting in case of south Korean and Israeli absence. They demanded that the venue of the championships be removed to somewhere else from Pyongyang. "Emergency decrees" may work in south Korea but not in the international community.

Given these facts, it is clear to everybody that the south Korean table tennis team is not qualified to compete in a fair manner. Therefore, it is logical for them to be barred from the Pyongyang championships.

Solid and Superior State Budget of DPRK

The fiscal 1979 budget was approved by the Third Session of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly after the state budgetary revenues and expenditures for 1978 were summed up.

The state budgetary revenues last year totaled 15,657,300,000 won, or 2.4 percent above the plan and 13.5 percent up on the 1977 figure.

The state budgetary spending for 1978 reached 14,743,600,000 won or 96.4 percent of the plan and 10.4 percent over 1977.

Thus, last year's state budget was successfully carried out with a colossal financial reserve amounting to 913,700,000 won after fully meeting the enormous financial needs for fulfilling the tasks of economic construction for the first year of the new long-term plan, increasing the defence capabilities of the country and raising the people's living standard to a still higher level. This figure is up 473.9 million won as compared with 1977.

This convincingly proves that the finance of the DPRK is based on a solid and superior socialist finance, which fully satisfies all the financial needs of the revolution and construction and never knows a deficit; and it eloquently testifies to the judiciousness and great vitality of the financial policy of the Workers' Party of Korea which guarantees a proper balance of the national economy.

Under the capitalist system where the means of production are private property and taxes are the economic foundation of the state, the state must collect taxes from the people to meet the financial need.

But, under the socialist system of the Republic where the means of production are public property, the socialist state-run economy and cooperative economy are the economic basis of the state.

For a certain time after the liberation, the Republic has a taxation system as a supplementary source of funds to meet the state and social demands and also as a supplementary means of narrowing down the gap among the people in their living standard.

However, taxes were reduced as the economy developed in the DPRK.

In the end, the Law on Complete Abolition of Taxation was, proclaimed in March, 1974 and the tax revenue disappeared once and for all from the state budgetary revenue of the DPRK.

In the DPRK wealth created and accumulated in the national economy is collected in a collective way by the state and distributed in a planned way.

The money comes from two major sources, one is earnings through transactions made by state enterprises and the other is profits made by state-owned enterprises.

Last year, revenues from the earnings through transactions increased by 15.6 percent and from the profits of state-run enterprises 19.6 percent, respectively, over last year.

The state budgetary revenue is based, to a certain extent, on the growth of accumulation through a decline in production costs which accounted for 28 percent of the increase rate of the state budgetary revenue.

The state budget was supplied with large sums of money from local budgets.

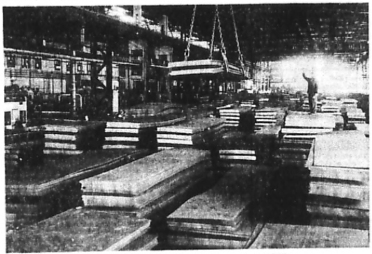
Last year, with the succesfull implementation of the local budgetary system introduced by President Kim Il Sung, about 1,199 million won was suppled to the state budget.

In this way, the fiscal 1978 budget was succesfully carried out, supported by yearly-increasing income resources, and helped financially in implementing the first year tasks of the Second Seven-Year Plan.

The fiscal 1979 budget was properly drawn up through an active mobilization of the revenue sources of the country, to firmly guarantee financially the succesful fulfilment of the tasks of socialist economic construction.

The revenue and expenditure of this year's state budget are 17,301,320,000 won, respectively. The state budgetary revenue this year will jump 10.5 percent and expenditure of the state budget will rise 17.3 percent above last year.

In this year's state budget, funds are properly distributed among the important domains of the national economy, with the priority given to these domains, to firmly ensure financially a new upsurge of socialist economic construction.



Profits made by state-run enterprises are the revenue sources of the DPRK.
Photo: the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works

President KIM IL SUNG Is Great Strategist Who Leads Korean Rev. along Ever-victorious Road

——Rodong Sinmun Editorial Article——

PYONGYANG, Apr. 12 (KCNA)—Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) April 11 carried an editorial article under the headline "The Respected and Beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is a Great Strategist Who Leads Our Revolutionary Cause along an Ever-victorious Road."

The article is largely divided into two parts.

In the first part, it recollects that our people under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung have advanced along an ever-victorious road over the last half a century.

It says:

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is the great pioneer and outstanding leader of our revolutionary cause who opened the new epoch of socialism and communism in our country and leads the revolution and construction along an ever-victorious road.

To have him at the head of the revolution was a glorious starting point from which our people could struggle and advance constantly along a road of victory and glory under the banner of the great Juche idea, writing finis to the past history crowded with bitter pains and twists and turns.

Over the last half a century our people brilliantly achieved national liberation and independence by fighting the most ferocious imperialist aggressors and climbed a high peak of socialism after successfully fulfilling the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and socialist revolution, the serious social revolutions.

Declaring that our people are highly proud of the history of their struggle waged under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the article says: This is because each victory won in the course of this struggle is a victory achieved entirely by their own efforts under most difficult conditions.

All our victories, the article continues, have been won and consolidated in the flames of the vigorous armed struggle and hard-fought war in which we had to cross the death lines and cut the way through the enemies with arms in our hands and fierce struggle against all hues of opportunists and enemies within and without.

Noting that the history of the struggle of our people who have won all the struggles they fought under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, is a proud history in which they effected tremendous changes in this land in the shortest historical period ever known by hastening the revolution and construction at an extraordinary pace, the article says:

Holding high the banner of continued revolution, he guided our people to advance ten steps, nay, one hundred steps, when others take one step, without the slightest stagnancy and standstill. As a result, the legendary Chollima has become a living reality in this land and our revolution has constantly advanced along a road of ascension.

This history of leaping advance of our people is being brilliantly succeeded in the flames of the speed campaign today.

Our people are infinitely proud of the history created by them because all the problems arising in all stages and in all domains of the revolution and construction have been victoriously solved.

With the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung solving whatever problems in any field of the revolution and construction, all the problems arising in the party and state building, economic and cultural construction have been solved along the most straight path in conformity with the demands of the times and revolutionary development in our country.

In the second part the article notes that all the victories and successes recorded in the 50 odd year long history of the revolutionary struggle of our people are the shining fruition of the far-reaching conception of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and his outstanding and masterly leadership art.

In the protracted course of directing the revolution and construction to victory the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung founded the Juche-based theory of revolutionary leadership and splendidly applied it to set a great example of masterly leadership art, the article says, and goes on:

First of all, he put forward a correct line and policy and an outstanding strategy and tactics for our people, brightly indicating the road ahead of our revolution.

The inexhaustible might of all the lines and policies, strategy and tactics advanced by him lies in that they fully reflected the specific conditions of our country and the interests and desires of the broad masses of the people.

In directing the revolutionary cause along an ever-victorious road, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung always sets a high goal and rouses our people to boldly attain it, thereby leading the revolution and construction to an uninterrupted upsurge.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who clearly looks with his clairvoyance not only into the near future but also into the distant future brought to maturity already in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle a far-reaching plan to build in the liberated fatherland a prosperous paradise of the people as it is today. When the war was still at its height, he worked out a plan for the postwar rehabilitation and construction. This encouraged our people to fight valiantly, firmly convinced of victory even in the grim days when the destiny of the country was hanging by a thread.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung unrolled one after another grand blueprints hardly conceivable by any other person and boldly carried on struggle for their realization with his extraordinary revolutionary sweep and iron will and thus made our people a people with an iron will who carry out any vast revolutionary task once they resolve to do.

The masterly leadership ability and organizing capacity of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who firmly believes in the strength of the popular masses and rouses them to carry out the revolutionary task by a lightning method are another important factor leading our revolution and construction along an ever-victorious road.

His revolutionary work method of making one rouse ten, ten a hundred and a hundred a thousand has put the whole party and the whole society in action and set aflame the whole country to carry out any vast revolutionary task by a lightning method.

Indeed, the masterly and distinguished leadership art of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is an omnipotent weapon with inexhaustible strength which fires a revolutionary passion among the entire people and firmly rallies them into a united and organised, invincible revolutionary detachment to carry out the revolution and construction with flying colors.

Rapid Growth of Industrial Output

Last year the DPRK's gross industrial output in terms of value showed a growth of 17 percent as against the previous year. This was much greater than the average annual growth rate of industry envisaged in the annual Second Seven-Year Plan.(1978-1984)

The country last year increased the expenditure for the national economy 10.6 percent above 1977 for a successful fulfilment of the tasks for the first year of the Second Seven-Year Plan whose keynote is the Juche-orientation, modernization, and scientification of the national economy.

In the field of the mining industry coal and ore mines with rich deposits and vast prospects, such as the Anju district coal mines and the Musan and Komdok mines were reconstructed and expanded, new ones were actively developed and the modernization of the mining equipment was energetically pushed ahead, with the result that the fuel and raw material bases on the country were consolidated further still.

A great many grand monumental edifices under a far-reaching plan were brought into being last year. In the industrial domain alone, 2,941 construction objects were successfully completed to increase drastically the productive potential of the independent national economy.

Last year the output of electric power leaped 10 percent, steel 27 percent chemical fertilizers 23 percent and cement 32 percent as against the previous year.

All this powerfully attests to the might and great vitality of the independent and modern industry which is developing by firmly relying upon its own solid fuel, raw material and power bases and its own technique, possessed of all necessary branches.

Today the heavy industry has a powerful machine-building industry as its core and all basic branches. The share of the machine-building industry in the gross industrial output value rose from 5.1 percent in 1946 to 33.7 percent in1977. As a result, the country meets 98 percent of its demand for machinery with home-made production. Domestic raw materials account for over 70 percent of the industrial raw materials in the country.

Firm bases of raw materials, fuel and power were built in various parts of the country. In the past Six-Year Plan period our annual production rose to 28,000 million kwh in electricity and 50 million tons in coal.

A comprehensive industrial system organically linking all branches of industry from raw materials to the production of finished goods has been established in the country.

All these brilliant successes made in the industrial domains clearly show that the policy of building a Juche-based industry put forward by President Kim Il Sung is a most correct one to solidify the foundation of the independent national economy and capture the material fortress of socialism and communism at an early date.

The DPRK produces various efficient machine tools, and exports after satisfying the home demand.

Juche-Study Group Formed In Portugal

A meeting was held on March 17 at the linguistics and literature faculty of the University of Lisbon to form the "Portuguese Group for the Study of Kimilsungism," according to a KCNA report.

The meeting was attended by students of the linguistics and literature faculty and personages of various circles.

A letter to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was unanimously adopted at the meeting amid a loud applause of the attendants.

The letter said:

The task of our group is above all to deeply study the essence of Kimilsungist philosophy, widely introduce and disseminate this idea and thus expand the ranks of the group with those who want to learn from Chollima Korea, a model for the world people in our time and achieve the unity of our group.

Luis Manuel De Araujo, student of the linguistics and literature faculty, spoke first at the meeting.

He said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was born in a revolutionary family in Mangyongdae, set out on the road of revolution in his early age and founded Kimilsungism, the Juche idea which is the greatest idea in the world, in the course of organising and leading the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

It is a trend of the present time to study Kimilsungism, he said, and stressed: The members of the newly formed group should first of all firmly arm themselves with this great idea and widely disseminate it.

Luis Manuel de Araujo was elected chief of the group at the meeting.

Aeguk Okdang Factory Commissioned

The Pyongyang Aeguk Okdang Factory, a gift of compatriots in Japan to President Kim Il Sung, was built and started production, according to a KCNA report.

The factory, fully automated, will produce in a serial system a great quantity of *okdang* (corn sugar) by use of maize reaped abundantly in the DPRK every year.

The factory built thanks to the ardent love of compatriots in Japan for the socialist homeland will contribute to strengthening the Juche character of the food industry and improving the people's lives.

A commissioning ceremony was held at the factory on April 14.

Present there were Vice-President Kang Ryang Uk, Pak Sung Chul, Kim Jung Rin and Kye Ung Tae, and So Yun Sok, Ho Sun, Kang Jung Han and other personages concerned, employees and builders of the factory and working people in Pyongyang.

Also present were Han Duk Su, Chairman, and Li Gye Baek, Vice-Chairman, of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), Pak Jong Hyon, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, and other Chongryun functionaries and members of various delegations of Chongryun.

Chronicle of Irrigation

The DPRK ranks among the most advanced countries of the world in irrigation.

Large-scale projects for the Pyongnam Irrigation System watering 100,000 *chongbo* of fertile land and the Kiyang, Amnok-gang, Ojidon and Singye District Irrigation Systems and for the water control of the Taedong-gang River, the Chongchon-gang River, the Amnok-gang River and the Tuman-gang River, and middle and small-scale irrigation projects were carried out in a big way in different parts of the country. As a result, the task of irrigation was completed successfully in a historically short span of time in the country.

After the inspection of the countryside covered with the ramified irrigation networks, foreign friends are unanimous in saying: Korea is "a land of irrigation" and "a country with the most develpoed irrigation system."

President Kim Il Sung said:

"Irrigation is a great task for the remaking of nature and a far-reaching plan for the permanent benefit of state and society. Therefore, this work should be carried out through an all-people's movement. Not only the peasantry but all the people should be mobilized for this work."

From the first days of the building of a new country following the liberation, the people pushed ahead with irrigation works in different places of the country, putting the main stress on turning non-irrigated and rain-dependent fields into irrigated ones, and at the same time, forcefully carried out irrigation and river works to enlarge the area under rice cultivation and land free from the damage of flood and drought through an all-people's movement.

The Potong-gang River improvement project in Pyongyang marked the start of the irrigation and river works in the country.

President Kim Il Sung broke ground for the project and Pyongyang citizens came out as one and completed it only in 55 days, giving full scope to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, though the Japanese imperialists could not finish it in ten years before liberation. And the Potong-gang River, once a river of sorrow, a river of tears, for the people, turned into a river of paradise. And now the magnificent Chollima Street has appeared on "Tosongrang" which was crowded with ramshackle huts.

The Pyongnam Irrigation System is the largest one in the country. It waters 100,000 *chongbo* of land in the west coastal area of South Pyongan Province centering around the Yoldusamcholli Plain, a big granary of the country.

There flow many rivers, big and small, including the Chongchon-gang River and the Taedong-gang River in this area. But, before liberation, almost all the rice fields were non-irrigated for lack of irrigation facilities, and suffered flood and drought damages every year and very poorly yielded.

Drought damage was particularly serious.

In spring peasants transplanted rice seedlings in the dry fields, and throughout spring and summer they had to water withering rice plants by lifting water with dippers and carrying it with jars.

To own land and irrigate it, therefore, was the age-old desire of the peasants in this area.

Only after the liberation of the country their desire came true with the establishment of the Pyongnam Irrigation System.

In order to meet the peasants' cherished desire for irrigation, the President, after solving the land question following the liberation, worked out a plan of grand nature remaking for agricultural irrigation and initiated the establishment of the Pyongnam Irrigation System as the first step.

The construction of the Pyongnam Irrigation System started in 1948 and was interrupted in June 1950, before completion, by the war ignited by the US imperialists, and it was resumed after the war and completed in May 1956.

With its completion Lake Yonpungho, one of large reservoirs in the country, was constructed.

The water of the Taedong-gang River is led into the lake and passes through many long tunnels and joins with the water of the Chongchon-gang River lifted by the Kumsong Pumping Station on the lower Chongchon-gang River. Then it goes through more than 10,000 structures to spread over the Yoldusamcholli Plain through waterways more than 5,000 *ri* long like blood vessels.

During the postwar Three-Year Plan hundreds of large-scale irrigation projects including the Pyongnam irrigation project and numerous middle and small projects were completed in the east and west coastal areas and irrigated areas and lands free from flood and drought damages increased considerably and agricultural production grew markedly.

During the Five-Year Plan for the complete construction of the foundation of socialism in the country the task of irrigation was carried out in the main.

In this plan period the irrigated area of the country reached 800,000 *chongbo*, seven times the pre-liberation figure, and all paddy fields were placed under irrigation and the irrigation system was newly introduced in dry fields, too.

One of the new monumental structures for irrigation built in the five-year period was the Kiyang Irrigation System.

With its establishment the fields of the Chungsan and Onchon Plains of South Pyongan Province became more productive and every year tens of thousands of tons of more rice was produced.

The second-stage pumping station built for the Kiyang Irrigation System is vast in the volume of water raised per hour and the highest in the East in the water-lifting altitude.

During the plan period the Ojidon irrigation project was also completed to supply life-giving water to tens of thousands of *chongbo* of fields in North and South Hwanghae Provinces including the Pongsan-Namuri Plain and the Kindung Plain of Hwangju and fully prevent the flood of the Sohung-gang River. As a result, Lake Sohung-ho with the largest storing capacity in the country appeared on the map.

The lake irrigates the vast fields around it. The electricity produced with the water of this lake is used to operate hundreds of pumping stations and this water is also used as industrial and drinking water in the region.

In this plan period irrigation and river works were conducted extensively not only in the west coastal areas but also in the east coastal areas and other places in the country. Many reservoirs and river dykes for the control of flood were constructed to protect a vast tract of land from flood damages.

Many irrigation projects were undertaken with the support of the independent heavy industry during the Seven-Year Plan which aimed at the overall construction of socialism.

During this plan, while reinforcing and perfecting the existing irrigation facilities, the country constructed large, middle and small irrigation works including the big Amnok-gang and Singye District Irrigation Systems.

In this way, during the plan the irrigation system was established widely not only in plain areas but also in mountain areas for both paddy and non-paddy fields.

In particular, the completion of the Amnok-gang District Irrigation System made it possible to send life-giving water to over 90,000 *chongbo* of fields and the reclaimed tidelands in the west coastal area in North Pyongan Province and produce rich crops every year.

In the Six-Year Plan period, too, 117 reservoirs including large lakes Manpung-ho and Unpa-ho and the big Yontan and Pyongwon Reservoirs were newly built and the country's water storage capacity increased 1.5 times, and 8,850 pumping stations were constructed, increasing the pumping capacity 1.8 times, and 400,000 *chongbo* of dry fields were brought under irrigation.

S. Korean Economy in Peril

South Korea suffered a trade deficit of 1,064 million dollars in the first quarter of 1979, a more than threefold increase from the 264 million dollars for the same period of the previous year, a Reuter despatch from Seoul reported.

Expanding Trade Deficit

Quoting the announcement of the south Korean "economic planning board," Reuter added:

Imports increased to 1,564 million dollars in March from 1,429 million dollars in February, making a first-quarter aggregate of 4,135 million dollars.

Last year, south Korea recorded a huge trade deficit amounting to 2,349 million dollars, a sharp increase as against the 1977 figure of 764 million dollars.

It is noteworthy that the trade deficit with Japan increased nearly two times last year, three billion dollars up from 1,778 million dollars of 1977.

What is more, south Korea recorded a 1978 account deficit of one billion dollars due to a wide gap in the trade account. The deficit is said the largest in three years.

The deficit of south Korea in account was two billion dollars in 1974 and 1.8 billion dollars in 1975, the year of Arab oil squeeze.

The renewed worldwide "energy crisis" is shaking the south Korean economy to its foundations, causing the ever-expansion of trade deficit. It is feared that south Korea will see a new record of trade deficit this year.

From an economic point of view, south Korea is being brought to a critical point.

In a desperate effort to tide over the ever-deepening crisis, the "economic planning board" recently announced "emergency measures" to contain inflation and stabilize the crippled economy. Thus, Seoul is forced to slow down its "high-growth, export-oriented economy."

Uncontrollable Inflation

Notwithstanding this, ominous signs are omnipresent in the economic scene. Among other things, soaring prices are adding fuel to the current runaway inflation.

According to the latest figures released by the "economic planning board," south Korea's consumer price index rose 1.8 percent in March from February to 162.8 and stood 16.2 percent higher than March 1978.

The index rose 6.2 percent from its end-1978 level in the first three months this year and already surpassed the halfway mark of Seoul's growth target of 12 percent for the whole of 1979.

The wholesale index also increased 2.3 percent over February to 149.0, which reflected a year-on-year gain of 12.4 percent. The index grew 4.6 percent during the first 1979 quarter, comanpred with the whole-year target of 10 percent.

The previous figures of the board already showed that in February the consumer price index rose 3.5 percent from January to 160.0 or 15.7 percent higher than a year ago. This is the highest monthly hike since September 1975. Also, the wholesale price index increased 1.5 percent in February, as against the preceding month, and stood at 145.6, up 10.1 percent from a year ago.

On Apr. 16, Seoul newly announced 10-to-30.6 percent hikes for all public utility rates. In the previous day, intra-city bus fares were suddenly raised 20 percent. In addition, prices for 39 major steel and petrochemical products were simultaneously hiked.

It is widely speculated that the annual inflation rate of south Korea will hit 20 percent this year, compared with last year's 14.4 percent.

Under the new utility rates, effective May 1, ordinary inter-city bus fares will go up 30.6 percent and taxi fares 20 to 33.3 percent.

Subway tickets will go up 20 percent, ordinary train tickets 10 percent and coastal boat fares 13.5 percent to 19 percent. Domestic air fares also will rise 10 percent.

City water rates will rise 21 percent. Electricity rates were raised 12 percent in February when gasoline prices were boosted 17 percent.

Ensuing Bankruptcies

Recently in south Korea large companies have gone bankruptcies one after another, following the bankruptcy of the Ryulsan group.

On March 26 the Okchon Enterprise Company dishonered 77 billion-odd won bills. Already two companies issued bad checks in this year: the Chosok Construction Company and the Chongjin Construction Company.

The capital of the Okchon Enterprise Company was capitalized at 900 billion won as of the end of December 1977.

Its present capital is estimated at 1,800 billion won.

Chongjin Constructin Company dishonored 200 billion won bills on March 12 and 48 million-odd won on March 13.

On December 15 last year the Chosok Construction Company failed to pay 49 million won drafts. Korea Shipbuilding Corp., too, is faced with a serious financial crisis.

According to the March 6 issue of a Pusan daily, the south Korean authorities gave 15,000 billion won as a rescue money of managing capital to the debt-ridden Korea Shipbuilding Corp.

It's cumulative debt reaches 120,000 billion won, whose annual interest amounts to 15,000 billion to 20,000 billion won.

A consortium of banks stopped on February 24 its aid to 21 big client companies.

Prior to this measure, 265 large companies were stopped aid because of their insolvency.

Iran Deporting S. Koreans

According to a news despatch from Tehran, the provisional revolutionary government of Iran recently decided to expel foreign workers from the newly declared Islamic Republic.

It is believed that there are about 2,000 south Koreans, most of whom are workers and technicians. South Korean sources disclosed that 194 are employed by local companies, with the rest either working for south Korean or other foreign companies operating in the oil-rich Persian Gulf country. It is said that the south Koreans will be directly affected by the new measures taken by Tehran.

The provisional government announced on Mar. 20 that only those foreign nationals who are required by Iran will have their work permits renewed.

South Korea is now losing one of its major "economic bastions" in the Mideast—Iran and Saudi Arabia. The "boom" of south Korean construction industry in the region is an important factor for the so-called "miraculous high growth" of the south Korean economy. The "boom" in Iran seen under the reign of the shah is increasingly fading away as a result of the Iranian revolution which ousted the monarch.

This is another ominous sign for the south Korean economy, in addition to the Mar. 27 OPEC decision to raise the oil price 9 percent as from Apr. 1.

Oil Squeeze

South Korea imports about 60 percent of its oil requirements from Saudi Arabia, 8 percent from Iran and the remainder from Kuwait, with the total oil import last year amounting to 167 million barrels.

As a result of the latest OPEC price hike decision, south Korea will pay about 14-15 percent more for its crude oil imports this year than the previous year.

The payment for this year's oil imports, expected to reach 197 million barrels, will be about 2.9-3 billion dollars, as compared with last year's 2.16 billion dollars and this year's target of 2.5 billion dollars set at the beginning of the year. In addition, imports of petrochemicals and other raw materials affected by the oil price hike will rise, too.

The Hongkong-based English-language weekly "Far Eastern Economic Review" in its Apr. 13 issue analyzes "How OPEC's Price Rise Hits Asia."

As regards south Korea, the weekly says as follows:

The total increase in import cost spread over the full year is put at about 600 million dollars.

Officials at the Economic Planning Board insist there is enough leeway in their total import target for 1979 of 18 billion dollars to absorb this cost without having to alter their earlier estimates.

Last month, the government authorized an average increase of 9.5 percent in petroleum prices. Prices to the public rose 17.1 percent, while electricity prices were also raised, though under a complex formula smaller domestic users largely escaped the increase. Officials insist no further oil price increase will be allowed this year.

However, prices of various petrochemicals are still being examined, and increases in this area seem likely. So the official estimate is that higher oil prices spread over the whole of this year will add only 1.74-2 percent to the earlier inflation estimate of 10-12 percent.

However, this ignores the higher cost of other imported commodities, and severe shortages of some raw materials are being reported as importers find overseas suppliers holding back until prices stabilise. Taking this into account, the major south Korean companies are privately estimating that the inflation rate in 1979 will reach 20 percent.

South Koreans are repatriated from Iran, as the government recently banned foreign workers in the country. The south Korean workers wait for their flight to Seoul in a Tehran airport.

Fear of Nuclear Disaster Growing

Various countries are greatly concerned, as a result of the radiation leak accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, the United States.

Here in Japan, government sources recently said that the safety of nuclear energy would be the most important topic in discussions of the energy problem at the Tokyo summit scheduled for June.

Nevertheless, Seoul's attitude toward the sensitive issue is entirely contrary to the international trends.

RADIATION LEAK IN KORI PLANT

Coinciding with the nuclear accident in Three Mile Island, a similar accident occurred in south Korea's only nuclear power plant located at Kori near Pusan on the southeastern coast of the Korean Peninsula. Radio active-contaminated water leaked from the 595,000kw-plant built by the US Westinghouse Electric Corp. The Kori nuclear power plant is equipped with a pressurized water type reactor like that at Three Mile Island.

Seoul belatedly revealed the radioactive trouble in a news conference called on Apr. 3, one week after the occurrence of the accident, in fear of untoward public reaction. After suspending the operation of the troubled reactor for only one week, the south Korean authorities resumed the operation from Apr. 5 without conducting a thorough scientific examination.

In the news conference, Choe Jong Wan, "minister of science and technology," attributed the radiation leakage to trouble in a reactor coolant pump in the primary system of the Kori plant. It is said that the leaked water contained some 10mg of radiation from the coolant pump.

He insisted that there is no worry at all that the disorder may bring similar nuclear leakage as took place at the Three Mile Island plant.

Although the south Korean plant and the American one are the same pressurized water reactor models, he alleged, they are very different in many ways including their safety systems.

The reactors in the two power plants were made by different companies—the Kori plant was made by Westinghouse and the Three Mile Island one by the Babcock and Wilcox, Choe added.

WESTINGHOUSE NOT SAFE

Seoul's easy-going approach to the most sensitive issue of the nuclear energy safety seriously concerns the south Koreans.

A south Korean daily expressed a grave concern in an editorial as follows:

"The radiation leak at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant brings into sharp focus the potential for nuclear disaster. The accident brings home to us the vital necessity of guarding against what is believed to be the one-in-a-million risk of nuclear power as desperately as against any frequent and easily perceivable danger."

This concern was increased, as a Westinghouse spokesman announced a new instruction on Apr. 13. The US nuclear power plant maker urgently advised to check the "emergency core cooling system (ECCS)" and change over to the manual operation of the system.

A comprehensive check by the US "nuclear regulatory commission (NRC)" disclosed that there are problems in the design of the ECCS of the Westinghouse nuclear reactors which south Korea is using.

The ECCS is the core of the safety device which injects large amounts of water into the reactor core when something unusual happens. Its purpose is to prevent the development of a major accident.

LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY

What was reaction here to the accident at Three Mile Island. When the accident occurred in the US, those concerned in this country insisted, "Even though the Japanese reactors are similar, such an accident is impossible in Japan because the makers are different."

Their initial reaction was as same as that of Seoul.

But, following the announcement of a report of the NRC on the accident at Three Mile Island, the "nuclear safety commission" of Japan reversed the previous standpoint, and decided to suspend the operation of Westinghouse nuclear power reactors throughout the country.

The question is how deeply Seoul feels its responsibility to protect the health and safety of the people. Given the circumstances, it is crystal clear that the south Korean authorities completely lack a sense of responsibility for the safety of the nation.

If they were truly concerned over the nation, they should suspend operating the troubled reactor, as long as even a slightest anxiety remains regarding safety.

Waters Polluted By Heavy Metals

The present level of atmospheric and water pollution in major cities and industrial centers of south Korea is dangerously close to a permissible limit by international standard, and there seems to be no room for argument as to whether anti-pollution measures taken so far are adequate and effective enough.

So said a Seoul-based English-language daily in its editorial dated Apr. 8, referring to the deteriorating environmental situation in south Korea.

Reports recently reaching here from south Korea give a detailed account of this.

According to a report from Pusan, the coastal waters of Pusan, Masan and Ulsan are heavily polluted by heavy metals.

In this connection, pollution experts of Pusan Fishery College proposed a ban on the operation of laver, other seaweed and shellfish in these coastal areas.

Recently, they announced that excessive levels of heavy metals had been found in the water sampled from the three coastal areas which was tested since last October.

The water of these areas, the experts added, are seriously polluted with heavy metals, including mercury and cadmium, discharged from factories.

The mercury content was 20 times greater than the permissible level in the water sampled from the areas. In the water sampled from Suyong Bay near Pusan, mercury averaged 0.016 ppm, a level higher than 0.005 ppm allowable. The mercury content found in Masan and Ulsan was 0.016 ppm and 0.013 ppm, respectively. Cadmium levels found were 0.018 ppm in Suyong, 0.014 ppm in Masan and 0.064 ppm in Ulsan. What is more, copper and lead were detected in amounts exceeding the allowable levels.

The pollution experts warned that people may suffer from pollution diseases if they eat seaweed or shellfish from these farms for an extended period of time. They held the authorities responsible for a failure to take proper measures to prevent the water contaimination.

Fishes Deformed

According to another report from Seoul, the Han-gang River running through the heart of Seoul is also polluted by heavy metals to a serious extent that fishes in the river have been deformed.

Some fishermen caught fishes deformed by pollution in an upper stream of the Han-gang River on Mar. 19. It is said that pollution in the upper streams of the river has been aggravated in recent months.

The report added that it was the first time that deformed fishes were found in an upper stream of the river since 1976 when a malformed fish contaminated by heavy metals, was angled in the downstreams.

A Yonsei professor revealed that the deformed fishes were polluted by insecticides used for agriculture.

Despite an official announcement that pollution in the Han-gang River has alleviated over the years, the fishermen and residents in the area disclosed that the number of deformed fishes there augmented recently, while the number of normal fishes have drastically decreased.

Photo shows the deformed fishes caught in a upper stream of the Han-gang River. The deformation was caused by heavy metals disgorged into the river.

Seoul Shaken by Yulsan's Demise

The "Asian Wall Street Journal," Apr. 19, featured widespread impact of the biggest-ever collapse of a south Korean business group" Yulsan (Ryulsan)" upon the economy. The case was reported on Mar. 7 by the "People's Korea" on page 3.

An article "South Korea Shaken by Trading Firm's Demise" topped the first page of the Hongkong-based American daily. Follow its excerpts:

South Korea's biggest corporate failure and banking scandal are rocking the nation's financial corridors, and aftershocks are likely to reverberate through the domestic and foreign business communities for months.

The events are centering on the collapse of the Yulsan business group at a time when it reportedly had more than $300 million in debt to domestic and foreign lenders. Yulsan had been built around South Korea's newest and fastest growing general trading company. Earlier this month, the company's top officers were arrested on charges of embezzlement and foreign exchange violations.

In the wake of the troubles at Yulsan, presidents of three of south Korea's five largest commercial banks have resigned. These are Bank of Seoul $ Trust Co., Korea First Bank, and Hanil Bank Ltd. Hong Yoon-Sup, until last week president of Bank of Seoul $ Trust, has been arrested on charges of malfeasance in office and inducing other banks to make untenable loans to Yulsan.

The relationship among the banks and Yulsan Industries Co. and its subsidiaries is still being investigated by the Seoul prosecutor's office. No one has been indicted yet, although several indictment appear likely. Those facing preliminary charges couldn't be reached for comment because they are in detention during this stage of the investigation.

But no matter how the legal proceedings turn out, the events are highly significant. They involve more than simply the collapse of a major customer of domestic and foreign banks. The events are raising fundamental questions about Korean banking practices and the way corporations are financed. They are prompting a new scrutiny of the government's strategy of pushing exports through giant trading companies.

For example, opposition members of the National Assembly Finance Committee, which is investigating the affair, already are claiming the government has glossed over its responsibility. They have charged that top officials of the government must have approved the big bank loans to Yulsan. The opposition wanted to summon for testimony former Minister of Economic Planning Nam Duck-Woo, former Finance Minister Kim Yong Hwan, former Presidential Secretary General Kim Chung Yom, and current Justice Minister Kim Chi Yol. The ruling party was able to squelch the motion.

Yulsan Group's total indebtedness is still being calculated. But sources close to the investigation say that as of March 31, the figure was about $284 million. Press reports have said that the group has additional overseas debts of between $60 million and $80 million, including about $20 million in overseas bank loans. But these figures couldn't be immediately confirmed. Bankers say some of Yulsan's foreign loans could be guaranteed by the Bank of Seoul $ Trust. But others aren's secured by bank guarantees. Names of foreign banks which has made loans weren't available.

Bank of Seoul $ Trust, Yulsan's lead bank and largest creditor, has outstanding loans to Yulsan totaling about $112 million, according to the March 31 figures.

Foreign banks will be closely scrutinizing south Korean lending. "Certainly many lenders and foreign bankers will reconsider their deals with Korean borrowers—particularly without bank guarantees," said one Korean financial source.

The great degree of control which the government exercises over the banks has some critics charging that the government, especially top finance officials, are partly to blame for Yulsan's indebtedness.

The Yulsan scandal has also resulted in the questioning of other government policies. The system of preferential export promotion loans, reprotedly a major contributor to Yulsan's debts has come under fire. And the Ministry of Finance already has announced a reorganization of export financing.

Corruption Rampant

Alarmed over the "global energy crisis", the south Korean authorities are now making much ado about a "saving campaign" imposing "frugality" upon the nation. In spite of this, corruption is prevalent in south Korea, involving officials and businessmen.

As was already reported, the payoff scandal involving the state-run "national agricultural cooperatives federation", is causing a wide controversy in south Korea.

In addition, another payoff scandal was revealed, involving a government-run corporation.

RED PEPPER SCANDAL

According to a report from Seoul, five senior officials of the state-run "agriculture and fishery development corp. (AFDC)" were arrested by police authorities on Mar. 3 on charges of receiving bribes from businessmen in the course of allotment of red pepper imported from abroad last year.

In this connection, three businessmen were also arrested on the same day. They were accused of conducting illegal business with the "AFDC" to buy scarce red pepper.

The arrested "AFDC" officials are suspected of receiving eight million won from three trading companies in exchange for sales of imported red pepper worth 1,500 million won. (One dollar equals 484 won)

On Apr. 6, Li Jae Hyon, president of the "AFDC", was summoned by police authorities. He is believed to have received bribes from the arrested employees of the corporation and businessmen.

Li is also suspected of having hushed up the case despite his knowledge of the bribery. It was disclosed that he had been informed by the auditors of the corporation of the payoff scandal. Prior to the summons, he fired an employee of the corporation, Hong Jae Hyong, in charge of selling agricultural products, in an attempt to evade his responsibility.

Reportedly, the dismissed employee embezzled 23 million won, by illegally selling to markets 9,000kg of red pepper imported from Pakistan. He was already arrested for this.

Recently, hot pepper, the necessaries of life for the Koreans, is seriously short of demand in south Korea. Last summer, 39,134 tons of red pepper was urgently imported. Of them, 4,448 tons or 11.4 percent were reported putrefied or of bad quality. Only these were supplied for general consumers with high price. Meanwhile, red pepper of high quality has been hoarded by speculators through illegal channels.

TAX-EVASION

It is reported that a Seoul tax-office clerk is searched for by police on charges of receiving bribes by assisting in tax-evasion. The suspect Rim Chol Su is said to have received two million won in bribes from a south Korean welding company in return for concealing the fact that the company evaded 130 million won in tax last January.

In this connection, Pak Chong Ju, president of "Korea Welding Co.", and two executives of the company were arrested on Apr. 9. They were involved in the slapdash welding of rail tracks, by using substandard welding bars and dodging taxes amounting to about 300 million won by forging taxation documents. They are accused of slovenly connecting rail tracks by using low-quality welding bars.

In a bid to dodge tax, the company executives allegedly fabricated taxation documents to the effect that the company employed 350 workers for the repair of rail tracks across south Korea from April, 1977 to March, 1978. But, they actually mobilized only 30 welders for the works.

Reportedly, the welding company made a monopolistic contract with the "Korean National Railroad" in welding rail tracks throughout south Korea. It has exclusively engaged in welding rail tracks handled by five district railroad offices under the control of the "Korean National Railroad" since 1966.

UNLICENSED MEDICAL ACTIVITIES

Two doctors and other 18 persons were arrested on Apr. 6 on charges of illegal medical activities.

Li Mun Yong, by borrowing a doctor's license from one of the arrested doctors, had treated more than 800 patients, including pregnant women, through his private organization from February, 1977 to last March.

Choe Sun Gun borrowed a dentist's license from Kang Hong Suk, the other one of the arrested doctors, for 100,000 won a month. The woman opened her "hospital" and treated 5,000 patients from November, 1976 to last March.

The disclosure was made by those patients damaged by the unlicensed doctors.

Commentary:

GI Pullout from S. Korea Essential To Reduction of Tension

Gen. Kim Jong Hwan, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the south Korean armed forces, recently flew into Tokyo for meetings with Japan's military officials.

On Apr. 4, Japan's top defense official Yamashita said that he would visit south Korea after a trip to the United States. He is planning to visit the U.S. in summer to come.

On Apr. 5, Gen. Nagano, chief of staff of Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force, revealed that he would be in south Korea from the end of April till the beginning of May for an "inspection of military installations."

The trip by Yamashita is the first visit ever made by Japan's defense agency chief to that part of the Korean Peninsula. Gen. Nagano's visit is the first in 10 years as a purely military mission to south Korea.

The two men's travels should be viewed in connection with the trip to Japan and south Korea of Gen. Rogers, chief of staff of the U.S. army, made in early April.

Gen. Rogers, according to Japan's military sources, told the Japanese defense chief that: firstly, the U.S. would complete reestimates of the DPRK's military capacity in a couple of months; and secondly, a dominant view on Capitol Hill and within the military favors postponning or halting the military withdrawal from south Korea.

Japan's military leaders conclude that "there is no doubt about an extensive scaledown at least in the planned withdrawals, a development serving to preserve the balance of force in Asia."

Now in the U.S. moves are afoot to prevent the projected military disengagement from south Korea and other parts of Asia on the pretext of the "growing military potential of north Korea" and "signs of restlessness among allies." The Americans are reinforcing their military presence in the Asian region "in response to the alarming arms buildup of Soviet forces in the Pacific." A military cooperation among the U.S., Japan and south Korea is being further intensified in order to "maintain the balance of force." Against the backdrop of such second Cold War mentality, the division of Korea is being perpetuated.

There is no denying that frequent contacts among American, Japanese and south Korean brasshats are for the purpose of putting into practice the new Asian strategy of the U.S. government. Consequently, those are disquieting moves.

What deserves special attention is the willingness of the Japanese to strengthen military ties with the south Koreans in line with the shift in the military strategy of the U.S. The Japanese are making positive efforts to finalize the trilateral military cooperation of the U.S., Japan and south Korea.

Yamashita, Japan's top-ranking military leader, said without any hesitation: "the military buildup in north Korea is a destabilizing factor to the security of Japan and south Korea, making it necessary for the U.S., Japan and south Korea to demonstrate their military unity in removing that factor."

Informed sources believe the agenda of Yamashita's talks with south Korean military officials include (1) the reported stronger military power of the DPRK and (2) the postponed American troop withdrawal from south Korea and "compensatory measures."

Speculation is strong that the forthcoming Yamashita trip to south Korea will pave the way for instituting the "south Korea-Japan regular defense ministers meeting," a standing body for regular military consultations between Seoul and Tokyo.

As a matter of common knowledge, "the guideline on U.S.-Japan joint operations" was worked out in November last, calling for the commitment of Japanese troops in a "contingency" in Korea. The Japanese public are currently debating pro and con war-time bills intended to legalize putting the whole of Japan on a war footing in case of "an emergency."

These developments run counter to the resumed north-south talks on the Korean Peninsula and defy the aspirations of the Korean people and the world community.

The so-called "destabilizing effect" is further being amplified by the closer military alliance of Washington, Tokyo and Seoul and by the postponement or halt of the GI pullout from south Korea.

The call for "preserving the military balance" is apparently aimed at upsetting that balance as it is a familiar rhetoric of imperialism. Under whatsoever circumstances, the withdrawal of U.S. forces from south Korea cannot tip the balance of force in Asia but is a requisite for the reduction of tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Table Tennis Players of DPRK

The male table tennis players of the DPRK are engaged in an intensive training with the approach of the 35th World Table Tennis Championships.

The coach said that the skill of Cho Yong Ho, Yun Chol, Hong Chol, Kim Chang Am and other boys who will participate in it has reached a fairly high level. But they are making titanic efforts to further improve it, not resting on their laurels.

All the strong rivals known to the world are expected to come to the Championships. Very good technique is required to prove equal matches with them. The DPRK men's table tennis has made a substantial development in the past period.

The boys placed third in team score at the 28th World Table Tennis Championships held in Ljubliana in 1965, second in team score at the 29th World Table Tennis Championships held in Stockholm in 1967 and first in team score at the International Table Tennis Games in Bucharest next year.

In the later period they proved successful at the Asian Table Tennis Championships, the Tri-Continental invitational friendship table tennis games and other international games.

In the recent years men's team of the DPRK has been reinforced with new faces, who will be the main players at the forthcoming championships.

The women table tennis players of the DPRK are now carrying on vigorous training to demonstrate the honour of the country once again in the 35th World Table Tennis Championships.

The excellent skill and agile movement of Pak Yong Sun, the world's "table tennis queen," evoke the admiration of beholders. Pak Yong Ok, Li Song Suk, Kim Chang Ae and other women players are also improving their skill.

Their spirits are skyhigh and their faces are beaming with hope and confidence.

Women table tennis players of the DPRK made their debut in the international games at the 27th World Table Tennis Championships held in Prague in April 1963. At that time they did not acquit themselves well.

An inside of the Pyongyang Gymnasium

But, they drew a lesson from the championships and started tireless training with a redoubled vigor to cultivate the Juche-based table tennis skill and tactics by making strenuous efforts.

Their painstaking efforts paid off.

Girls of the DPRK came first and second in the doubles and third respectively in the singles and team event in the First Asian Table Tennis Championships held in Beijing in September 1972.

This was an advance and marked a new leap in the women table tennis.

Subsequently they participated in a series of international competitions to score good results.

They carried off gold medals respectively in the singles and doubles and a silver medal in the team event in the First Tri-Continental Friendship Invitational Table Tennis Tournament and won gold medals respectively in the doubles and team event in the Second Tri-Continental Friendship Invitational Table Tennis Tournament.

Having achieved these successes, they participated in the 33rd World Table Tennis Championships held in Calcutta in 1975.

In the championships a Korean young girl Pak Yong Sun defeated all the top-notch players of the world in the women's singles to become the world women's singles title holder.

The women table tennis of the DPRK attracted the attention of the world table tennis circles.

Pak Yong Sun carried off the gold medal again in the singles in the 34th World Table Tennis Championships held in Birmingham to become the first in 22 years to win the women's singles title twice consecutively. In the championships Pak Yong Ok and Chinese player Yang Ying placed first in the women's doubles. Pak Yong Sun, Pak Yong Ok, Kim Chang Ae and Li Song Suk came third in the team event.

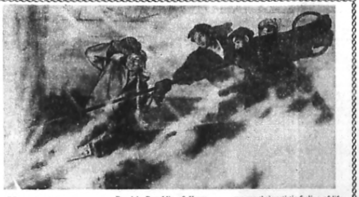
Through two world championships women table tennis players of the DPRK held their due place in the world table tennis circles.

The 35th World Table Tennis Championships slated to open in Pyongyang on April 25 will be participated in by Pak Yong Sun of the DPRK, Zhang Li, Ge Xinae and Zhang Deying of China, Hammersley of Britain, Magos of Hungary, Hellman of Sweden, Kawahigashi of Japan and other excellent women table tennis players.

The players of the DPRK are resolved to add shine to the honour of the country by scoring good results in the championships.

Cho Yong Ho

Pak Yong Sun



Korean Painting

"Steel Workers"

(By Choe Kye Kun, 1966)

The National Art School was built in 1949, the year following the proclamation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Daughters and sons of workers and farmers, for the first time, were given opportunities of developing their artistic ability there.

The construction of the art school was an epoch-making event for the development of Korean paintings. Many painters have been trained at the school. They express their artistic feeling of life in the socialist country in their works.

The painter of this picture also once studied at the school and is now one of the leading painters of the traditional Korean school of painting in the DPRK.

In this picture he vividly depicts the powerfulness of steel workers.

A Look at Korean Films

"Salvos Boom"

The film is based on a story during the past Fatherland Liberation War against American imperialist invasion (1950-53). It deals with warriors of the People's Army who fought the enemy to the end, singing the song of victory to the accompaniment of musical instruments made on the frontline and displaying mass heroism.

The theme is centred on the soldiers of a unit of the Korean People's Army who are fighting in defence of a projecting hill. Firmly confident of final victory, even during the fierce battles they find time to write a poem and set it to music titled "Salvos Boom." Nothing can be found on the hill, except half-burned trees and empty cartridges. By using these they rack their brains to make "cartridge-keyed percussion instrument", "bottle-keyed percussion instrument," violins, drums and others. Thus, after warding off the attack of the enemies a concert is held on the hill, giving them cold shivers.

Their song is put on the stage at the soldiers' art festival of the Korean People's Army. This is a demonstration of the mettle of the Korean people and warriors of the People's Army heroically fighting, convinced of final victory in the war.

The film shows the Korean soldiers' life full of optimism and their noble spiritual and moral qualities. It also convincingly proves that inexhaustible is the might of a people who take an optimistic view regarding the future of the revolution, confident of the validity of their cause, and that no force on earth can break this strength.

News Dispatch From Pyongyang

Apr. 6

• O Ung Gwon, newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Polish People's Republic, presented his credentials to Henryk Jablonski, President of the State Council of that country.

Apr. 11

• A delegation of the parliamentary group of the DPRK headed by Son Song Pil left Pyongyang to attend the 124th meeting of the council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in Czechoslovakia.

Apr. 12

• Gilberto Zapata Isasa, former First Vice-President of the House of Representatives of Colombia, Secretary General of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea and Chairman of the Colombia-Korea Association for Friendship and Culture, and his wife arrived in Pyongyang.

Apr. 15

• Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India, met the delegation of the DPRK headed by Hwang Jang Yop attending the international seminar on the Juche idea at the presidential palace.

Apr. 18

• A protocol on mutual commodity delivery and payments between the governments of the DPRK and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for 1979 was signed in Pyongyang.

(KCNA)

World Bulletin

• The plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was held.

• The 33rd anniversary of the independence in Syria was celebrated.

• Indian Prime Minister visited Bangladesh.

• The Zimbabwean guerrillas blew up another big oil storage of the Rhodesian racist clique.

• The general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's democratic Party of Afghanistan referred to the leading role of the party at a recent short course.

• Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu paid a visit to Angola.

• The 8th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Sierra Leone was celebrated in Sierra Leone.

• The Organisation of African Unity, the Nigerian and Botswanan governments and Mozambican journal denounced the acts of aggression and raids by the racist clique and the imperialists who are supporting the racists.

• The General Secretary of the United National Independence Party of Zambia denounced the criminal acts of the racists against the independent African countries.

• The Panamanian paper "Critica" condemned the imperialists for arming the Latin American reactionaries.

• Todor Zhivkov, President of the State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic, visited Cuba.

• Ziaur Rahman, President of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to Thailand and Malaysia.

• The ninth congress of the agricultural cooperatives of Czechoslovakia held in Prague with the attendance of President Gustav Hunsak.

• A meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic was held in Algiers under the chairmanship of President Benjedid Chadli.

• The guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization are dealing successive blows at the South African racist clique occupying their country.

• Presidens of Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania condemned the southern African racist cliques at a meeting held in Mozambique.

• The Barbados government took a step to dismantle the military base of the U.S. imperialists in Barbados.

• Caribbean countries agreed to cooperate with each other in various domains.

• Hungary and Nigeria concluded an agreement on cooperation in economic, scietific and technical fields.

Brief Korean History (10)

Territorial Expansion of Silla, Formation of Palhae

Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Silla and Paekche—were opposed to one another for a long time. However, in the middle of the 7th century, the balance of force changed due to the territorial expansion of Silla.

In the absence of its own ability to put the other two under control, Silla counted on the help from Tang. Meanwhile Tang schemed to destroy Koguryo and Paekche in cooperation with Silla and then to annex even Silla.

In July 660, a Silla army 50,000 strong led by Kim Chun Chu and general Kim Yu Sin advanced toward Paekche. Paekche fell into confusion. Death-defying 5,000 Paekche troops fought a decisive battle against Silla troops at the Hwangsan plain. However, Paekche was defeated at last. By this time, a Tang force of 130,000 had crossed the sea and advanced upon the Sabi Castle, the capital of Paekche, after landing at the mouth of the Kum River. Thus King Uija of Paekche surrendered to Silla, and Paekche ceased to exist.

After the fall of Paekche, Tang continued to occupy castles of Paekche, which met a fierce resistance of its people. In particular, the local people repeatedly attacked the Tang troops which occupied Sabi and Ungjin castles.

This situation was exploited by Silla to seige Paekche castles one by one, and to expand its territory.

When Yongae Somun, the leader of Koguryo, died in 666, his three sons contended with one another for his succession. After being defeated, the eldest son Namsaeng surrendered himself to the Chinese.

In July 668, Silla, bent upon the conquest of Koguryo, took hold of the Pyongyang Castle in cooperation with the Tang troops, and in September the king of Koguryo surrendered. After occupying the whole territory of Koguryo, Tang moved to destroy even Silla.

The people of Koguryo, Paekche and Silla rose in a body to resist the Tang invaders.

In July 670, Silla troops, supporting the struggle of Koguryo and Paekche people, defeated Tang troops in the territory of Paekche and got back 63 castles.

In September 675, Silla gave a fatal blow at an army of Tang 200,000 strong in the area of Meacho Castle (Yangju, Kyonggi Province). In November 676, a navy of Silla annihilated a navy of Tang more than 4,000 strong at Kibolpo at the mouth of the Kum River, after 22 battles. As a result of the 7-year war until the end of 676, Silla succeeded in unifying the area south of the Taedong River. However, the northern part of the Koguryo territory came under the rule of Tang.

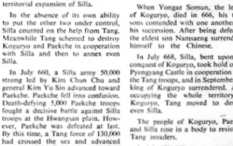
Meanwhile, the Koguryo people, forced by Tang troops to move to Yongju after the collapse of Koguryo, rose in a rebellion in 698, coinciding with the riot by the Khitan tribe, and advanced east, punishing Todok of Tang. The Koguryo army was led by Gen. Tae Jo Yong and included many Malgal people. As soon as the uprising started, all the Koguryo people in the Liaotung area participated in the Tae Jo Yong forces. The forces rapidly swelled, by recapturing eastern points of strategic importance, and destroy Tang forces at Chonmunryong.

A feudal ruling class led by Tae Jo Yong founded a state called Chinguk was renamed Palhae in 713. The capital of Chinguk was Tongmosan and that of Palhae, Sanggyong.

After its founding, Palhae rapidly bacame powerful. In ten years, Palhae occupied vast areas. Its northern boundary was the Sungari River, Palhae was adjacent to Silla to the south, Khitan to the west and Liaotung to the southwest. It has hundreds of thousand families and had tens of thousand strong elite troops. In other word, Palhae gained control of most of the former Koguryo territory. It cannot be denied that Palhae was established by the Koguryo people and inherited the culture of Koguryo.

In 732 the naval troops of Palhae landed at Tungju of the Santung peninsula and slew its governor in order to retaliate against Tang. After wiping out the guard troops they withdrew quickly. In 733 Tang tried to conquer Palhae again, but it failed to.

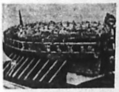
(To be continued)



Sanggyongryong Chonbu, capital of Palhae

Do You Know?

Tortoise Boat



It is an ironclad tortoise-shaped warship made in Korea at the end of the 16th century.

Attend to make an ironclad tortoise boat was first made in the early 15th century and it was completed in the early 1590s.

With the appearance of the tortoise boat the board-by-board battle, the main form of sea battle in the Middle Ages, gave way to the mobile gun battle.

The tortoise boat was 113 feet in length. Its width was 12 feet at the prow, 14.5 feet at the middle and 10.6 feet at the stern. Its roof was covered with thick iron plate to protect the crew. So it looked like carapace. It was studded all over with big sharp iron nails to prevent the enemy from getting on it. The bow of some boats was made like dragon head and the dragon mouth emitted sulfurous smoke for smoke screen or stink stuff.

The tortoise boat was armed with guns. It had as many as 72 portholes: 44 on both sides, 24 on the deck, and 4 on the bow. It had ten oars on each side and was very fast. It had 26 rooms: an arsenal and separate cabins for crew, commanding officers and the captain, etc.

Such fine tortoise boats made a great contribution to the victory in the Imjim Patriotic War (1592-1598) by crushing the Japanese fleets in many sea battles.

Visit to Monumental Edifice in Korea (3)

People's Palace of Culture

The district along the Potong River is known as the most beautiful part of Pyongyang.

Long promenades are laid along the banks of the river, and colorful flowers, about 10,000 trees stand on either side of the promenades. The Potong River which caused floods after each long spell of rain, was once called the "river of grudge", but no one can now find any vestiges of the former river. It was improved by a large-scale construction project just after the liberation.

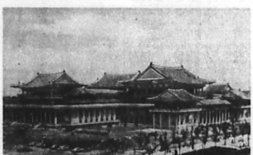
The People's Palace of Culture was completed on the bank of this beautiful Potong River on April 12, 1974.

There are 10 buildings, big and small, in the compound with a total area space of 60,000 square metres. The People's Palace of Culture is entirely built from marble, according to traditional national architecture. Walls of the palace are decorated with mosaic pictures showing us the advancing Korean people in socialist construction. Found inside are luxurious marble pillars and marble floors, a sculptured ceiling which is in good harmony with the marble pillars and floors.

It has about 500 rooms ready for use by the people at anytime. The palace consists of a big stage, a 300-seat conference room, a round-table conference room with a floor space of 900 square metres, big (with 700 seats) and medium (with 200 seats) and small (with 100 seats) banquet halls, study rooms and rest rooms. All these facilities are used not only for international conference but also for public functions.

President Kim Il Sung gave on-the-spot guidance 8 times and advised on many occasions while it was under the construction.

The builders completed this grand palace in only one year. The President named it "The People's Palace of Culture" and made it the palace for people to raise their cultural life.



Why Can't I Carry on My Studies

Poor students cannot continue to attend school in south Korea where the rich get richer and the poor poorer.

The south Korean newspaper, "Hyokmyong Chonsori", carried the article on a poor south Korean schooler.

The People's Korea reprints" Hyokmyong Chonsori."

• •

I'm a middle school girl living in a tiny rented room in Kuro Street, Yongdungpo District, Seoul City. But I'm now in no condition to carry on my studies.

Whenever I came back home after school hours, I found my younger brothers crying for food. Their sigh was more than I could look at. Worse still, some days ago my mother was hit by an American army jeep travelling at breakneck speed. She is now lying in the cold room, without getting any medical treatment. Feeding my family is more urgent for me than studying. Even while writing this letter, I'm tormented by my four-year-old brother Yong Nam who keeps asking: "Sister, will you bring me a meal today?"

Why should our family live in such poverty? Mother used to say it is because we have no father. But it seems not to be so to me. My pals Bok Hi, Ae Sun and Sun Ok have their fathers but they are all as poor as my family. Some people blame poverty on fate. But it doesn't sound true either.

Sometime ago my senior girl friend of Yonse University told me that in the north all children were growing happily, receiving free education. If poverty comes from fate, then is it that all those in the north are born lucky while those of the same blood in the south are born unlucky?

I am still not clear about this, but the same friend explained to me that poverty comes from an evil social system. In the north everybody learns and leads a happy life under the leadership of General Kim Il Sung. In south Korea, however, only the rich live in luxury in the magnificent houses while the poor like us find it hard to take even one scanty meal a day.

From this I think the brothers and sisters of Yonse University have risen up in a struggle in order to overturn this rotten, ailing society.

Now, young as I am, I am determined to join in the struggle against the Pak regime, following my brothers and sisters.

A newsboy earning a bare living, instead of going to school

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